

DR. STRANGEBORDERGUARD

A comedy sketch idea by Jonathan D Steinhoff, copyright 3.4.14

A congenial conversation between two old friends getting drunk together on vodka, **DMITRI** (border guard) and **NIKOLAI**, as they sit in Dmitri's guard booth, which appears to be located in some remote, woodsy area.

NIKOLAI

So Dmitri, I hear they are changing the borders again.

DMITRI

That is correct. All over again. See, I have the order right here. **(DMITRI hands NIKOLAI several sheets, including a map.)**

NIKOLAI

Ah, I see. Very good. Very good. Uh, no wait. Right here. **(points at map)** Now I have to cross border to go have borscht with my babushka. Can you imagine that, Dmitri? Every Sunday I go. We all go.

DMITRI

Yes, I see. Gee, that is too bad! Just half a mile and it would be okay.

NIKOLAI

Yes.

DMITRI

Yes.

(long pause)

NIKOLAI

Dmitri?

DMITRI

Yes Nikolai?

NIKOLAI

Couldn't you just move it, you know, a little?

DMITRI

You mean.....?

NIKOLAI

About half a mile?

DMITRI

Oh gee, Nikolai. Orders are orders. It is true, way out here, who finds out? But.... Okay, for you and your babushka, Nikolai – I will do it!

NIKOLAI

You will? Oh, you are so great, Dmitri! This is perfect! And it will only be half a mile.

DMITRI

Only half a mile. So you can see your babushka every Sunday without it being big deal.

NIKOLAI

And also, when she comes to see us, because, she would never figure out all that border stuff, you know, passports.

DMITRI

Of course. It is no problem, Nikolai. I am glad to do it.

NIKOLAI

You are the best, Dmitri.... Uh-oh.

DMITRI

What is that?

NIKOLAI

I do not want to say.

DMITRI
Something else?

NIKOLAI
There is something else I see now.

(another long pause)

NIKOLAI
My Uncle Guido. Already he has traveled from Italy to be with rest of family. Only now, he will be in wrong country. By two whole miles.

DMITRI
Well.... Couldn't Guido move?

NIKOLAI
Yes, yes of course. It is okay.

DMITRI
(after taking a long swig of vodka) Okay: it is done. I will keep your Uncle Guido within border. I will slightly change what they told me for border.

NIKOLAI
Are you sure this is okay?

DMITRI
It is no problem! You are my best friend, Nikolai! Our mothers used to walk us in strollers next to each other!

NIKOLAI
I only wish if we could remember what that was like! Ah, but we were too young, just babies, too young to remember anything.

(another long pause)

NIKOLIA
Dmitri?

DMITRI
Yes, Nikolai?

NIKOLAI
Well. Okay, I will tell you, because you are my best friend!

DMITRI
Tell me, Dmitri!

NIKOLAI
It's Mr. Pyotrovich, our first school teacher. He lives way over.... Do you think it might be possible, if we could just move the border over there, 200 miles to the east? He is related to – do you know Masha Fedorovichkova? Oh, of course you do! Well, he is her cousin, and sometimes....

DMITRI
Yes, I remember Mr. Pyotrovich! But Nikolai: 200 miles? I would first have to make a phone call. I cannot just do that.

NIKOLAI
Nevermind, Dmitri, you have done enough already.

DMITRI
Because I cannot do this without first making phone call. The other two, okay. But 200 miles.

NIKOLAI
That is okay, Dmitri.

DMITRI

It's just that I would have to check first....

NIKOLAI

No, no, you have done enough already.

DMITRI

You must let me do this! For Mr. Pyotrsvich!

NIKOLAI

And Masha!

DMITRI

And Masha!

(they clink shot glasses)

THE END